



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 470

LCO No. 2305

02305_____HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors
2 of Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
3 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
4 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish a faculty
5 scholarship for service program to encourage state residents to become
6 a qualified faculty member of a nursing or other allied health
7 education program within the state. The program shall provide, within
8 available appropriations, grants to state residents to cover the costs of
9 tuition, fees and books in exchange for service as an allied health
10 faculty member at an institution of higher education within the state.
11 To be eligible for the program, a candidate shall: (1) Be enrolled in a
12 graduate program of an institution of higher education leading to a
13 master's or doctoral degree in a field that qualifies such person to teach
14 in a nursing or other allied health education program within the state,
15 and (2) commit to teaching in a nursing or other allied health
16 education program, upon graduation from such program, within the

17 state for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner of
18 Higher Education. For the purposes of this section, "allied health
19 faculty member" means a faculty member qualified by special training,
20 education, skills and experience to provide instruction in a health-
21 related program, including, but not limited to, nursing, physical
22 therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation therapy,
23 radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular
24 technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology,
25 respiratory care and surgical technology.

26 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall develop additional
27 eligibility requirements for recipients, which may include income
28 guidelines, publish criteria and make available application forms to
29 implement the program in accordance with this section.

30 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
31 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
32 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
33 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
34 general statutes, to implement the program, including establishing (1)
35 the period of time a recipient must commit to teaching pursuant to
36 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (2) additional eligibility
37 requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3)
38 procedures for administration of the program.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors of
40 Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
41 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
42 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish a program for
43 the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing
44 or allied health education who become a faculty member of a nursing
45 or allied health education program within the state. The loan shall be
46 forgiven if the resident remains as a faculty member of a nursing or
47 allied health education program in the state for five consecutive years.
48 For purposes of this section, "nursing or allied health education"

49 includes any program of study and courses for entry to or
50 advancement in the profession or to upgrade knowledge and skills.

51 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall publish criteria and
52 make available application forms to implement the loan forgiveness
53 program in accordance with this section.

54 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
55 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
56 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
57 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
58 general statutes, to establish procedures to administer the program for
59 the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing
60 or allied health education within the state who become a qualified
61 faculty member of a nursing or allied health education program in the
62 state as described in this section.

63 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established a
64 Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program administered by
65 the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

66 (b) The program shall provide, within available appropriations,
67 grants to institutions of higher education that work collaboratively
68 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the 2008 supplement to
69 the general statutes, to (1) establish or expand allied health education
70 programs designed to qualify a person who successfully completes
71 such program to teach or train allied health students enrolled in an
72 allied health program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, or
73 (2) encourage persons employed by hospitals or in other industries,
74 who are qualified to teach or train students enrolled in an allied health
75 program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, to serve as full-
76 time or part-time faculty members at institutions of higher education.

77 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of Higher
78 Education shall establish and maintain a program to fund
79 improvements to facilities housing nursing and allied health programs

80 in order to expand the available capacity of classrooms and laboratory
81 equipment to accommodate increased student capacity.

82 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of Social
83 Services shall establish a program to provide grants to nonprofit
84 hospitals within the state to acquire patient lifting equipment. Such
85 funds may be allocated from the proceeds of bonds, bond anticipation
86 notes or other obligations issued by the state.

87 Sec. 6. Section 10a-162a of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

89 The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation with
90 the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner of
91 Public Health, shall administer a scholarship program for nursing and
92 emergency medical technician education within the state and shall
93 establish a program for the forgiveness of loans provided by the state
94 to residents for nursing education within the state. The funds
95 appropriated for the scholarship program for nursing and emergency
96 medical technician education shall be distributed equally between
97 nursing and emergency medical technician students. The loans shall be
98 forgiven if the resident remains in the nursing field in Connecticut for
99 five years. For purposes of this section, "nursing and emergency
100 medical technician education" includes any program of study and
101 courses taken to enter or to advance in the profession or to upgrade
102 knowledge and skills. The board of governors, in consultation with (1)
103 the State Board of Examiners for Nursing, the Office of Emergency
104 Medical Services and the Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt
105 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish
106 procedures to administer the scholarship program for nursing and
107 emergency medical technician education, and (2) the State Board of
108 Examiners for Nursing and the Commissioner of Public Health, shall
109 adopt regulations to establish procedures to administer the program
110 for the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for
111 nursing education.

112 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of one million dollars is
113 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, from the
114 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the purposes
115 of funding a scholarship program for nursing and emergency medical
116 technician education pursuant to section 6 of this act.

117 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
118 to the Department of Higher Education, from the General Fund, for the
119 fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the program established pursuant
120 to section 1 of this act.

121 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
122 to the Department of Higher Education, from the General Fund, for the
123 fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the program established pursuant
124 to section 2 of this act.

125 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is
126 appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, from the
127 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the program
128 established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

129 Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is
130 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, from the
131 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the program
132 established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

133 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) For the purposes described in
134 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
135 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
136 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
137 the aggregate ____ dollars.

138 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
139 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
140 Department of Social Services for the purpose of providing grants-in-
141 aid to hospitals pursuant to section 5 of this act.

142 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
 143 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
 144 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
 145 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
 146 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
 147 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
 148 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
 149 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
 150 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
 151 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
 152 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
 153 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
 154 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
 155 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 156 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
 157 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
 158 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
 159 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
 160 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
 161 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
 162 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
 163 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
 164 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
 165 due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10a-162a
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish initiatives that successfully develop, recruit and retain qualified faculty members, and support expansion of classroom and laboratory resources, with the goal of accommodating admission of all interested and qualified candidates to nursing and allied health programs; to support acquisition of patient lifting equipment essential to patient safety, prevention of injury and retention of older health care workers; and to provide funding for a scholarship program for nursing and emergency medical technician education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]